

# **ADAA Celebrates the Accomplishments of Multitudes Achieving Long Term Recovery: "Join the Voices of Recovery, Now More than Ever!"**

*ADAA promote the message that recovery from alcohol and drug use disorders in all its forms is possible, as DHMH marks Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month*

## **Department of Health & Mental Hygiene News Release**

BALTIMORE, MD (September 7, 2010) - The statistics remain daunting: the latest National Surveys on Drug Use and Health estimates that 430,000 Marylanders, and more than one out of five between the ages of 18 and 25, are dependent on or abused alcohol or illicit drugs in the past year. Those are just a few of the challenges facing state and local health officials as Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) Secretary John M. Colmers kicks-off Maryland's recognition of National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month. However, the message today is that treatment works, especially in Maryland.

"Despite having higher percentages of admissions with multiple substance problems, cocaine and heroin abuse, injecting drug use, mental health problems, and criminal justice origin, Maryland's treatment outcomes were comparable to, or more positive than those of surrounding states and the rest of the nation," said DHMH Secretary John M. Colmers. "This is good news, and it is a reflection of the impact of our collective efforts."

Over 225,000 individuals were provided prevention services, and approximately 72,000 individuals received treatment in Maryland during 2009.

Treatment reduces substance use, homelessness and crime, and increases employment. Research shows that each dollar spent on treatment saves approximately seven dollars in the costs of criminal justice, healthcare and lost productivity.

Secretary Colmers presented a proclamation from Governor Martin O'Malley declaring September as National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month in Maryland. He was joined by Robert Hendricks from the Federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), the organization that has promoted this observance for the 21st year. Keith Mills, Sportscaster for WBAL Radio delivered the keynote address.

ADAA promotes the belief that in order to provide quality addiction prevention, intervention and treatment services, state government and communities must work together to create a seamless support system that recognizes and understands that addiction is chronic disease, facilitating a recovery oriented system of care and acknowledging the important role that family, peers, and the faith community play in the recovery process.

DHMH and ADAA support and recognize all who struggle with the disease of addiction and its impact; and salutes those who are in addiction treatment and recovery;

Today's ceremony was held on the ADAA campus at the Spring Grove Hospital Center, in Catonsville.

More information on other Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month events in Maryland is available on the ADAA web site <http://dhmh.md.gov/adaa> under "What's New."